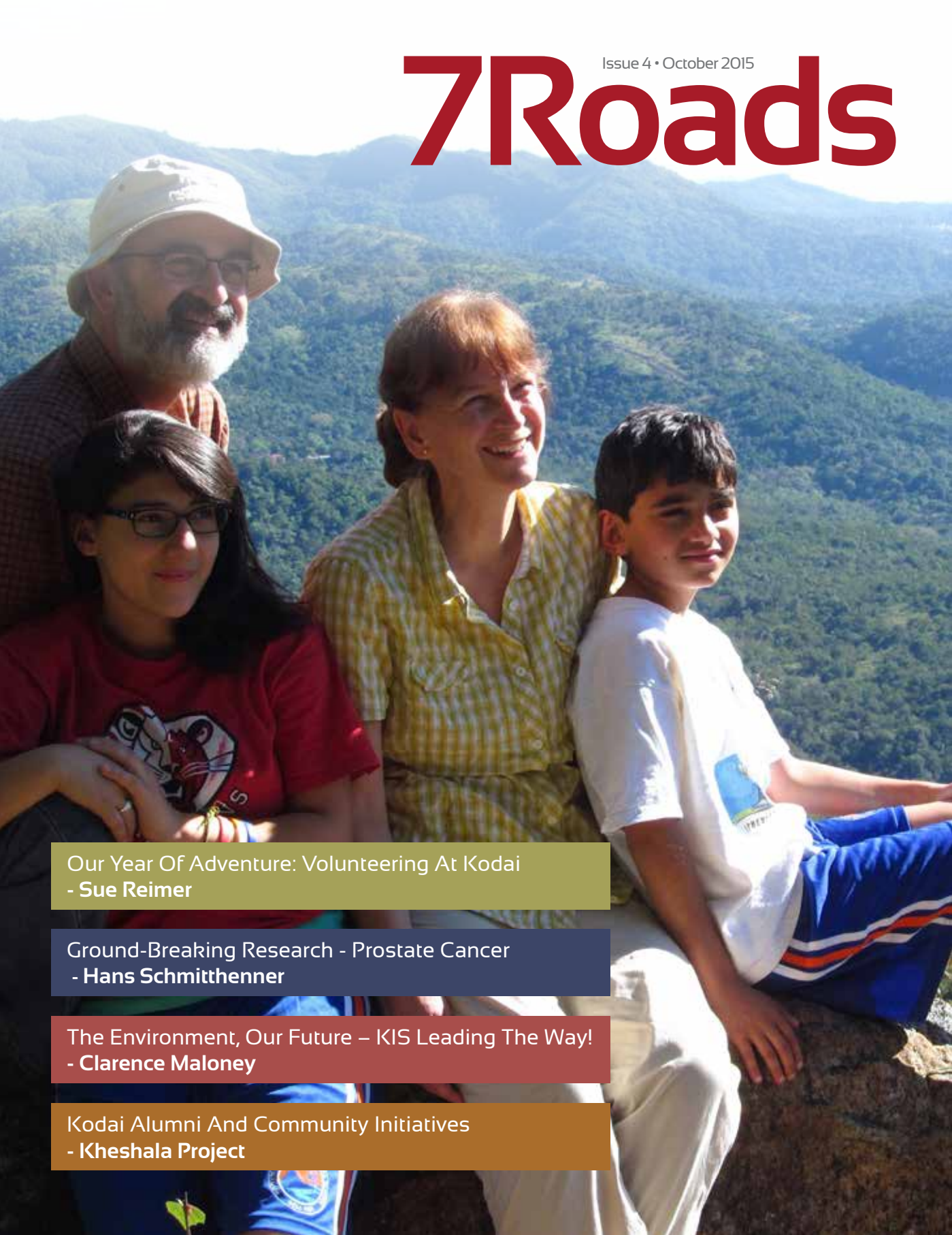


Issue 4 • October 2015

7Roads



Our Year Of Adventure: Volunteering At Kodai
- Sue Reimer

Ground-Breaking Research - Prostate Cancer
- Hans Schmitthenner

The Environment, Our Future – KIS Leading The Way!
- Clarence Maloney

Kodai Alumni And Community Initiatives
- Kheshala Project

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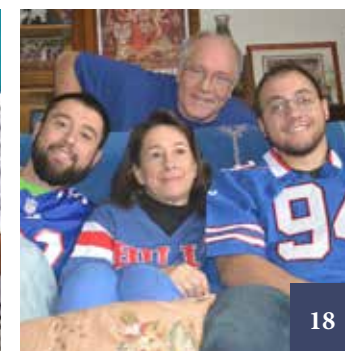
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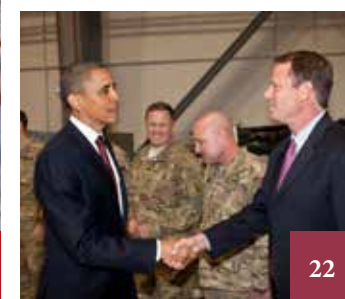
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FROM THE EDITOR

It's a great privilege to come your way again with this year's publication of the 7Roads magazine. We trust that the year has been fruitful thus far. I will like to specially thank all Alumni who shared their stories with us this year. In this issue, we report the outstanding achievements, successes and adventures of KIS Alumni. KIS is proud of your accomplishments.

As a School we seek to create a lifelong relationship with every Alumni in order to advance in our mission of lifelong connectedness and networking between the School and Alumni and between the Alumni themselves. Our 80 Alumni Chapters worldwide is an integral part of the alumni effort and offer members the opportunity to remain connected by providing a vital link with other alumni in their area. I urge you to be an active member in your Chapter to keep this vision alive. We welcome ideas and events which appeal to you, so don't hesitate to share. Stay informed via the School website, the Alumni webpage, Facebook and LinkedIn and regularly send updates of your email and postal addresses. We need our exceptionally talented, diverse alumni to help us move KIS forward.

Also, the KIS Annual Fund Appeal for 2015/2016 is ready and will be sent to you soon. We are counting on your support in these efforts to deepen the KIS experience of holistic education. The funds are being raised for two



projects: The first is the Sandra Schoeninger Fitness Center, named in honor of Sandra Schoeninger, who taught PE in Kodai School for over 30 years. She made a great impact on all of us through the various sports that we were taught under her expert tutelage. The second project is an appeal to support KIS Service and Environmental Learning Projects. As part of our holistic education, KIS students reach out to the community through social experience projects such as visits to orphanages, food distribution to old people's home, and renovating and painting dilapidated classrooms and homes of selected schools and individuals in and around Kodaikanal. I also urge you to take time to join the students on some of these trips when you next visit KIS.

Yvonne Dovlo '88

KIS Alumni Officer



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Sue Reimer '78 with spouse, John Amanatides and children Paul and Anna

Picture taken by Barbara Block

A KIS Marketing Office publication



NEWS FROM CLASS OF 2014

DIVYA GAUTAM - Student at Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland



Driving down that beautiful mountain after graduation I couldn't help but think- "this is the end." Little did I know that it was just the beginning. In September 2014 I made my home in the city center of one of the most happening cities in the world-- Dublin, Ireland. The Royal College of Surgeons has been a wonderful experience for me so far. It feels really different-- having to manage your own time and priorities. Dhobi doesn't dry clean your clothes and if you don't show up to class, Mr. Punnoose won't pull you into his office for a scolding. It's uni --you're independent. Before I even knew it, I was paying my own bills and examining patients! I still have a long way to go because I'm still only an 18-year-old, excited for what life has in store for her.

"Growing up is losing some illusions, in order to acquire others."

- Virgina Woolf

DO HYEON GIM - Medical School of Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh- Scotland UK



At the end, we all were saying congratulations to each other. May 24th 2014, the day I graduated was the "worst day" of my life. Not because the graduation was horrible but because it was the day I had to say 'congratulations' to my dearest classmates

although I was extremely sad to say goodbye.

I must say I had the greatest moments in KIS. Right after graduation, my friends and I decided to have a graduation trip to Thailand. I'm now guessing we were just trying to extend the days we stay

together. While we knew it would be hard to reunion later, we tried hard to forget everything and enjoy the moment.

We all were from different backgrounds like South India, Northeast India, Thailand, Bhutan and South Korea but we were just friends when we were together. We visited many different places within Bangkok and Krabi sight-seeing.

Once I got back to Korea, I had a plenty of time because I decided to take a gap year. Soon later, I started looking for the ways I could spend my time wisely. I decided to have more experiences. My perspective was to learn about society and work because I will have to face it in the future. I worked at Chinese restaurant as a waiter and bars as a bartender. I spent months working and travelling around. One day, I realized that work like that wouldn't help me much to learn how the society works. So, I decided to find more applicable jobs. However, those jobs were for those who have a degree. As a high school graduate, it was hard for me to find a job. Fortunately, an engineering company looked



into my resume and was fascinated by my experiences at KIS, India. Also, nowadays companies look for a person who can speak multiple languages. I took Hindi back in Kodai so it was an additional point for me.

My job was to interpret between Korean and Italian

engineers. It was an installation of a manufactural machine project that involves two engineering companies from Italy and Korea. Secondly, I was taught by an Italian engineer about how the machine works and to adjust or equip the parts of machine at different situations. Then, I had to

make sure the operators in the factory perfectly understands it in a simpler way. It was a five week project and I completed it successfully. My knowledge and the independence I gained from Kodaikanal helped it a lot. Also, I was socially adjustable at different work because I have been exposed to an open social environment at KIS.

NISHITA AGRAWAL - Student at University of Toronto, Canada



Nishita Agarwal with other KIS classmates - Yash Shah and Everjoy Lamin

The day I stepped out of KIS knowing that never again will I be able to step back in with the same student ID, I was convinced that another experience as enthralling as this would be hard to come by. Needless to say, I was bound to be proven wrong. Entering as a second year student in the Specialist in Economics

Program at the University of Toronto (UofT), being a part of the associate team of TEDxUTSC, obtaining my first job as a Data Analyst and Reporting Specialist, being selected as a member of the university's business clubs restructuring head committee; and then you realise- it's just the beginning!

In retrospect, when I look back at how KIS moulded my personality, I wouldn't hesitate a moment to claim that this school instilled this drive in me to keep flourishing wherever I am. Personally I thought, with KIS, I would leave behind that feeling of being part of something greater. Knowing universities would be as large



as cities, didn't help soothe the situation. It was only after I began my journey here at Toronto that I realised what KIS gave me was beyond the sense of belonging to the school. It was the quality of making an impact wherever you are

and integrating yourself in the community around you, be it Kodai or UofT. Now, I can proudly say that KIS is not just my alma mater, it is a part of me which, irrespective of where I am, will make me feel connected to it, whether

I have that student ID or not. More so, it has made me capable of making many more such connections, steadily shaping who I am and will go on to become.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE - MUNGELI CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

DR. ANIL HENRY (CLASS OF '84)



Dr. Anil Henry, (Class of '84) is the Board Chairman of KIS Council and also a missionary with Global Ministries (missionary branch of United Church of Christ, Cleveland, USA). As General Surgeon, Dr Henry is presently Director of a 110-year-old mission hospital in Chhattisgarh, India. He is also current parent at KIS, where his children study. In an interview, he shared news about his time as a student at KIS and also about his work at Christian Hospital in Mungeli.

How did you come to KIS?

When I was to be admitted into 4th grade, my

parents took up an assignment as missionaries to revive a rural hospital, Christian Hospital, Bissamcuttack which did not have any schools there. I also was taken into Kodai on a full scholarship for which I truly feel completely indebted to what I received from KIS.

What are your fondest memories as a student?

I loved the hills the most. I got the Thar Pin starting from 7th grade all through till 12th grade when I got the gold Thar pin.

I was out camping on most any weekend I could go out on.

I loved the sports and the trips to Ooty. I was in most all the sports and got the Big “K” in 12th grade. I loved my experiences in music as I played the trumpet and was first chair in the band but also was in the brass choir and jazz band. I truly was nurtured in the Church and from sixth grade onwards was on the church council as some representative or the other. The fun and the time off for reflection as we were on Teen Dimension and CE retreats in Wyadra or Swedish school. I remember spending many afternoons sitting high up in the fir tree just behind the alumni hall right next to the Airlee apartments reading a book.

Who was your favorite teacher and why?

I had many great teachers but one that I remember well was Dr. Hardev who was my biology teacher. I got to love the subject and went on to do most medicine. She took the most time and we were at her home many times as she would spend extra time with us to teach as well as mentor us.

What do you remember most vividly about your time at KIS?

Class camps and specially the camps in Berijam where there was an island where we would swim out to and have mud fights.

What Does Being a KIS Alumnus Mean to You?

It is the pride to know that I went to the number one International school in India. It is knowing that there is a network of friends all over the world. It is a responsibility to trying to find out how I can repay back to the school what it was able to do to me in shaping my life.

Please give a brief biography of yourself

My father is of Indian origin and a surgeon working in a mission hospital where he met my mother who came out as a young nurse

from Ohio and gave their lives in service to the church. I grew up in Kodai but spending vacations in this kind of a set up and wanted to become a doctor. Studied and was mentored by Dr. Marcus Devanandan (Malini’s father) and was the first real KIS graduate who got into CMC Vellore. I then did my post graduate studies in CMC Ludhiana in General Surgery. Had the privilege to work with my parents for about 10 years.

Married to my classmate, Teresa from Med school who did her post graduate studies in Anesthesia, we had Ankita (Class of 2010) and then the twins, Abhishek and Abhijeet (Class of 2015). We then decided to take off and see what life was like in the States and so took off and worked in Nashville, Tennessee for almost 5 years but yearned for a life of challenge and wanted to do something special with my life and so came back to India being commissioned by Global Ministries. This is the missionary wing of the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ which are two mainline churches in the US. They asked me to go to Christian Hospital Mungeli and see if I could revive it. This hospital had started in 1896 and was a flourishing hospital till about 1965 when it started its decline due to a lack of leadership and just at the verge of closing for over 40 years.

We came to Mungeli in 2003 August and there were four patients in the hospital with the infrastructure completely destroyed and nothing there. So we went straight to work. The vision of this hospital is to provide low cost modern medical care mainly focusing on the marginalized and down trodden refusing no one care and trying to serve those in the spirit of Christ.

In 2004, the church was ready to close down the English Medium School as there were only 80 children and they could not afford to run it



Dr. Anil with spouse Dr. Teresa Henry and their children Ankita, Abhishek and Abhijeet

and asked us to take it over. We took this up with the vision of providing low cost English Medium Education focusing mainly on village children all around Mungeli. Then in 2010 we started the school of nursing which strives to provide low cost and subsidized nursing education to become a general nurse midwife and is restricted to those ONLY from the State of Chhattisgarh.

Why did you choose to do medicine?

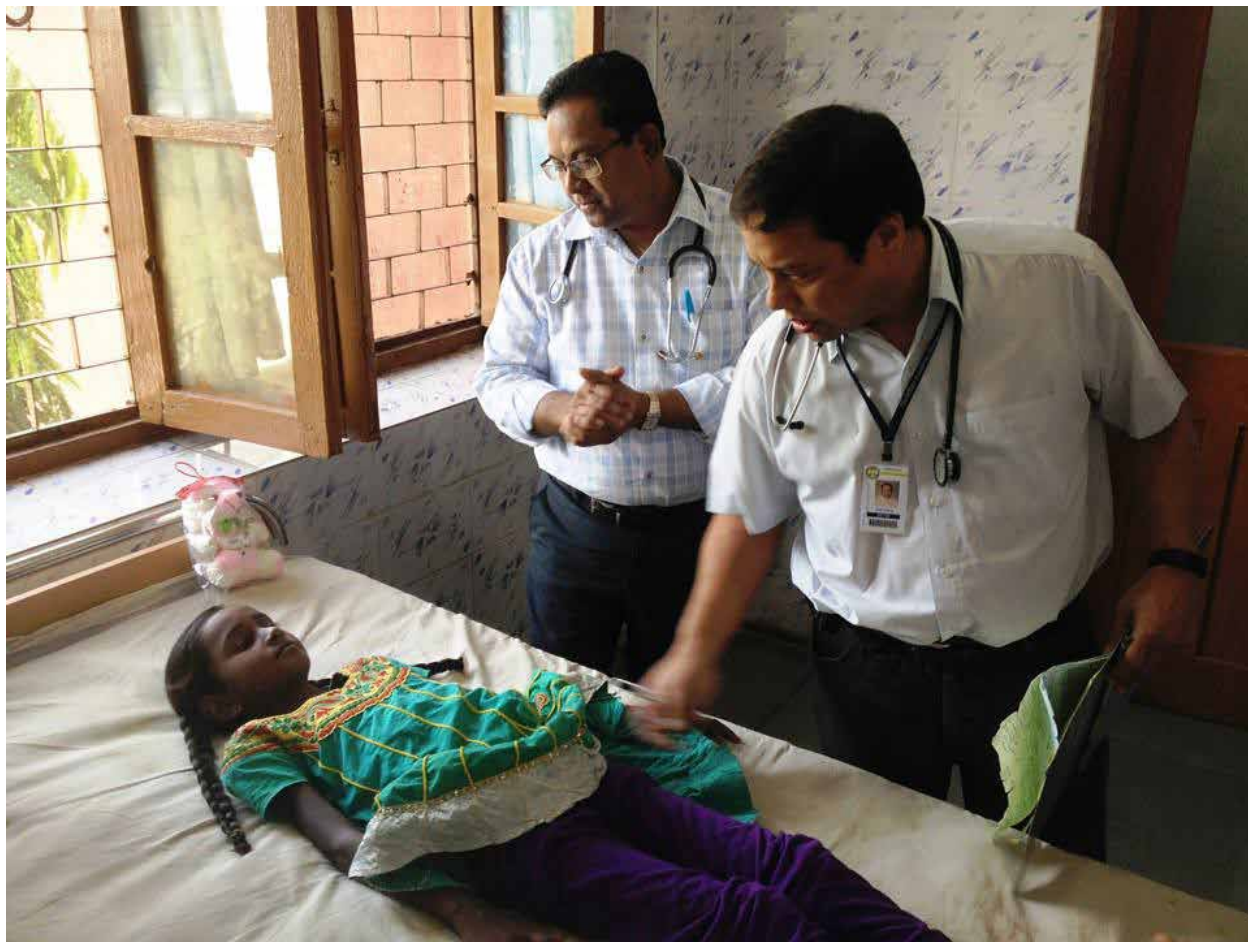
I have grown up around hospitals, have spent my vacations from school doing odd jobs in hospitals but most of all, I have seen how this profession is able to help thousands of people. Even more, I have been blessed with being able to create something of building a full community which is geared to bringing development and education to thousands around Mungeli.

What do you like most about the career path chosen?

The fact that I can think out of the box and influence the thoughts and lives of others to be able to help them. Being a general surgeon, I feel that life is never monotonous and everyday there is something new. New kinds of cases, things where I need to improvise and learn and just the fact that I have now a place where I have the equipment and the means to do such a variety of different procedures and cases.

Tell me more about your work at the Christian Hospital Mungeli

I came to Mungeli in August 2003. This was a hospital with four patients in it and with broken down buildings and nothing as far as equipment. We had about 28 staff and that was it. Now we are 120 bed hospital which is a multispecialty hospital with three ICU facilities



with all the ventilators, monitors and syringe pumps that are needed to take care of sick patients.

We have a fully automated lab, radiology supported by two ultrasound machines, digital x ray, CT scan. There is upper GI endoscopy and a tracheobronchoscope. The OR is fully equipped with laparoscopic and urology equipment and further cordless drills and saws of all kinds.

Our outpatient is paperless and soon the inpatient. We have all our radiology on what we call a PACS (Picture archiving and communication system).

We are further almost finished in installing the first and only low cost radiation department

for radiotherapy for the State of Chhattisgarh.

Then there is the School of nursing that we started in 2010 which takes in ONLY students from the local state. The vision of this is to provide low cost nursing training and bring about change not only to the nurse we train but also to our patients, her family and her community as well.

We have just started a small effort of the School for Allied Health which trains young ones to be lab and X-ray technicians and also Operating room and Dental assistants.

We then have the Rambo Memorial English Medium School which has a mandate to provide low cost English medium education mainly targeting those children from the surrounding

village. We started out with a broken down school with 80 children in 2004 to now 920 children. 650 of them being bused in by 6 school busses from the surrounding villages where most of these come from houses where neither parents had ever been to school.

Then there is the Springer Community College which graduates its first year this year where school dropout children can be trained into the fields of Nursing and Physiotherapy assistants and Computer hardware and networking professionals. We are also the ONLY institution that got the USAID, ASHA (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad) grant last year and again this year. We also are a place where young people from India as well as other countries all come for short and long term volunteers.

We also help children from poor homes who make it through 12th grade and then are not

able to afford further studies. They work as apprentices for a year and if we find them good then we send them out for further studies and take care of their costs and then after finishing they are given a job with us and they can repay their costs interest free. Many young ones have gone out in this manner and have come back to us and some have moved on as well.

How has your work at CHM improved health service delivery in the community, Chhattisgarh and the surrounding districts?

I believe that what we are doing in Mungeli as a hospital is just like a crisis management. There will always be people who suffer from diarrhoea, issues with having a normal delivery and intestinal obstructions who need surgery. However important that is, we are now in a position in Mungeli and the surrounding districts where we are looking at changing





the whole fabric of the community. This will happen with time and the impact that we have on this will take time to measure. It is however very significant.

Do you have any advice for alumni aspiring to pursue a career in Medicine?

I have now been with KIS and on the board for 12 years and our vision is for every alumnus who graduates from Kodai to be “a citizen of the world who is confident to walk in the world stage bringing hope and learning to serve others in the spirit and teaching of Christ.”

Medicine is a truly a special career but has so many ways in which it can be practiced. Learning from Mathew 25:31, like God separated the sheep from the goats, similarly there are more charitable ways of using ones skills as a doctor for good, while others may gain more than they give.

Dr. Anil Henry, thank you for sharing. Compliments to you and your team for the humanitarian work. KIS is proud of your achievements.

Contact Dr. Anil Henry if would like to volunteer at Mungeli Christian Hospital



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GROUND-BREAKING RESEARCH - PROSTATE CANCER

HANS SCHMITTHENNER (CLASS OF '70)



I tell people here I am an “American from India.” I’m a “Kodai kid,” born and raised in India. My parents also went to Kodai. If you want to read a sweet story on how they fell in love with each other and with Kodai, read the first chapter of “Ramblings with Ruth.” We went to Kodai before I can actually remember but I started there in second grade and graduated in 1970. My fondest memories are the good times with friends who

I still cherish. We stay in touch through various web groups and the Kodai reunions. Other wonderful memories are hikes and camping trips. I can still remember the paths of many hikes and visualize them, like hiking down to the plains by Kodai six different routes* and biking down the ghat one time by moonlight. I have vivid memories of the view of the plains at night from Coakers and called it the “jewel box.” I have memories of all of the

views, the smell of eucalyptus and the look and feel of a “rolly poochi.”

We had wonderful teachers. Mr. Reimer and Mr. Wechter influenced me to like science and math. Mr. Althouse taught a wood and metal shop class and Mr. Nelson, an art class. Both influenced the creative side of me. These would all become important in my career. Mr. Shaw chaperoned many of the hikes I was on and Miss Lange comforted me as a child in Kodai and taught me twice in 2nd grade and again in the 6th. I am so grateful for these mentors who gave us their time and their hearts.

In Kodai I didn’t apply myself in academics and was interested in many activities. I was sort of a jack of all trades. When I applied to college I aimed too high and was rejected at all five I applied to. After returning to the U.S., I tried again and the small Park College, accepted me. It was there that I discovered Chemistry from two professors, and was able to transfer to M.I.T. in my third



year. With an S.B., I went to Penn State for my Ph.D. in Chemistry, a field I am still in love with.

I was a professor at a small college in Rochester for two years then entered a 27 year career as a medicinal chemist in various pharmaceutical companies ending with AstraZeneca. During this time I married Joan Potenza, also a Ph.D. in Chemistry, whom I had met at Penn State. We have two great kids, Joseph, who is a college counselor now with a Masters in administration, and David, who is in graduate school in Mechanical

Engineering at Penn State with a goal to create robotic devices for disabled people.

After my career in pharma I joined Kodak and joined a medical imaging team and learned about dyes and other aspects of this field. I moved with a spin-off called Carestream Molecular imaging and set up a new lab for a year. That company dissolved (no pun intended), so I came back to academics and taught as an adjunct at RIT, then was given a trial opportunity to start a research lab.

So around the time when some of my colleagues

and friends were retiring, I decided to start a new career in cancer research involving molecular imaging. This new adventure combined aspects of chemistry and biology learned throughout my career, including the creativity, and working with my hands learned in KIS. We received a grant from the NIH last Fall, formed a collaboration with a medical center and received some press -even in USA today and I received a promotion to “Research Professor.”

The most wonderful thing is being able to mentor students. I have about ten

undergraduate research students and one grad student in semesters and about half of those are full time in the summers.

The aim of my group at RIT is to create synthetic methods to readily prepare targeted imaging agents that seek out cancer in early or later stages and image them more clearly in fluorescence, or MRI or PET and a new technique called photo-acoustic imaging (using light from lasers to make ultrasound from cells targeted with our dye based agents). The goal is to make diagnosis more reliable than is currently possible, or enable effective monitoring of treatment.

We were first able to target and image cancer cells in a confocal microscope at RIT. Our initial target was a lung cancer cell line, then we received a grant for early detection of prostate cancer. My next hope is to make use of a targeting agent for breast cancer and I am writing proposals now to not only image breast cancer early (when it is very tiny still) and then to use the same agents in photodynamic to destroy the cancer cells selectively by targeting them with our agents and then irradiating them with a directed laser.

We are an early stage of research and it is difficult to predict how far we can go with this but we hope our inventions will help medical professionals with early detection of cancer and even an early cure within the five to ten year time frame.

My advice for alumni interested in science is to always be inquiring and ask many questions. A favorite professor used to say “there are not stupid questions, only questions that are not asked.” Try new things and don’t be afraid of the unknown. If you don’t have stellar grades try to apply yourself next time. If you’re not doing well in one field or in one place try to find a field you will love or move to a place you will thrive in. Every time you move or start at a



new college or job you start at the bottom again where nobody cares about your grades or accomplishments in the past. If you haven’t done well before it is a fresh page with a new opportunity. If you have done well before, it is a realization that you can’t rest on your laurels and must climb that ladder again!

Don’t squander opportunities given to you. Being able to attend college is a privilege. It can be fun and exciting - or drudgery – and that depends on you. I consider my research position a blessing, not a task. Taking risks is an important element to success but having a solid background from KIS and working hard is a good hedge against that risk. You will meet professors who will help foster



Prof Hans with family

you. You will meet those who are tough or try to beat you down. Don’t be depressed and be confident. You will be able to prove yourself many times over in the next place. There are mentors who are gems

in every field. They will help you find a field that is exciting and fun, and that will increase your chances of success.

For more information about the research, go to:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/06/19/seeking-smarter-way-diagnose-prostate-cancer/29022479/>

Congratulations Prof. Hans and thank you for sharing.

NOTABLE ALUMNI

- A LIFE OF SERVICE

PAUL A. FOLMSBEE (CLASS OF '79)



Paul A. Folmsbee (class of '79) of Sarasota, Florida was nominated to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali by President Barack Obama on September 18, 2014 and confirmed by the United States Senate on May 23, 2015. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador he served as Executive Director, Bureau of African Affairs in the Department of State. Known as a talented leader and manager, he has served with distinction in many of our nation's most challenging postings.

Ambassador Folmsbee has spent a significant amount of his career in the developing world. His career focus has been on economic and

social development as well as civilian roles in active conflict zones. He previously served as the Senior Civilian Representative for Regional Command East, Afghanistan (embedded with the 1st Cavalry at Bagram), Consul General, Mumbai, India (during the period of the Mumbai terrorist attacks in 2008), Provincial Reconstruction Team Leader for Sadr City and Adhamiya, Iraq (embedded with the 2/82 Airborne) and Director of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Pakistan. He has also served in Embassy Port-au-Prince, Haiti during a period a major unrest as well as assignments in Tanzania, Gabon, Bolivia, Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Switzerland.



Ambassador Folmsbee earned a B.A. in Political Science from Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas and a M.A. in Social Anthropology from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma in and was issued a pilot's license after studying aviation at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

He is the recipient of four Department of State Superior Honor Awards, four Meritorious Honor Awards and a medal from the Polish Government for service in Afghanistan working with Polish troops. He is married to Angelika Chin. They have four grown children between them.

In an online interview from the US Embassy in Mali, he had this to share:

Your Qualifications?

I think many of my qualifications are laid out in my bio above. My career focus has been to work in the developing world and thus most of my assignments reflect that thinking. My background in Anthropology has been hugely helpful in that regard. By accident more than planning, I seem to have developed a lot of expertise in civilian roles and how to work in active conflict zones. It's important to make a difference and be the object of change to help

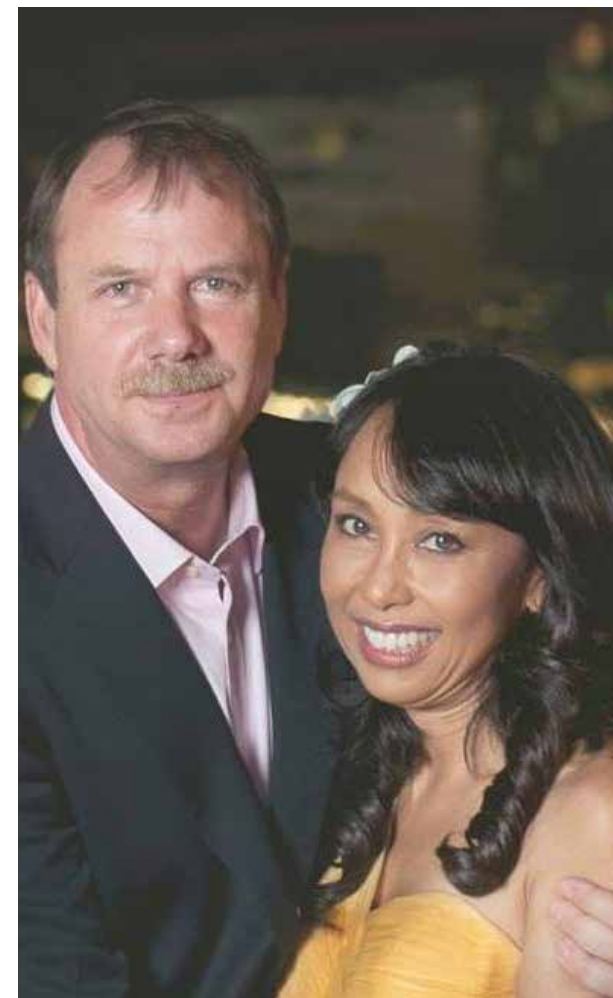
improve the world. I have been fortunate to have been present during “interesting times” as the Chinese proverb goes. It’s not a curse at all but an opportunity to serve. In my first assignment, I was in Geneva when the INF treaty was signed (I was a junior, fly-on-the-wall nobody). Later, I had the privilege of serving in Haiti in 2004 when Aristide had to flee and the country collapsed. We did our best to help get it on its feet. We worked hard to contribute to the stabilization of Iraq and Afghanistan and I lost friends in the effort. I served in India in Mumbai during the terror attacks of 2008 and also spent lots of time trying to encourage the expansion of the US – India relationship by encouraging commerce and cultural ties. India and the United States are great natural allies.

How did you come to KIS?

Back in the 1960’s, my father was a Missionary Doctor working in Erode, Tamil Nadu. My parents also spent a year studying Tamil in Kodaikanal. The years spent at Kodai nurtured in me a lifelong interest in making a difference. I consider my time at Kodai as one of the most formative experiences of my life – and probably helped nurture in me a lifelong love of India.

What are your fondest memories as a student?

Too many to really write but it would undoubtedly be the small things. I lived in Phelps Hall and once a week we would get an allowance of Rs. 1 (yes – one rupee). Many of



us would go out the gate by seven corners and find a dosa shop for a great treat.

Who was your favorite teacher and why?

Almost impossible to be fair, but Miss Little was my second grade teacher and used to read to us all the time – a favorite event back then.

What do you remember most vividly about your time at KIS?

I loved playing “mibs” (marbles) and “kodaikamansch” I am not sure of the spelling – a tag game we played in trees involving sticks and a circle.

One of the big moments of my time was when a gaur got loose in town. Howie Huyser famously tracked the animal down and shot it. I remember when they brought the beast into the school grounds and to the cafeteria, where he was carved up for dinner. There are pictures of that happening somewhere. I am one of the little kids perched way up on the top of the gate watching the proceedings.

What do you like most about the career path chosen?

I think one of the great benefits of being a diplomat is that what we do matters – it really does. It gives you a great sense of accomplishment.

You were recently appointed as the US Ambassador to Mali, please tell me about the process?

It’s a long process but a real honor to be selected. We are actively engaged in Mali to support the peace process (the Algiers Accord). It’s been very tough going – I am not sure all sides are ready for peace. There is much more to be done.

Do you have any advice for alumni aspiring to pursue a career in Diplomacy or Politics?

The Foreign Service is a great way of life and a great career. I am happy to talk to aspiring students who might be seriously interested. They can also find out more by going to State.gov. I do think KIS especially prepares students for success and there are a number of Kodai Kids running around in the Foreign Service because of that.

Congratulations to you Ambassador Folmsbee. We wish you well in your new assignment. KIS is proud of your achievements.

MARGARET EDDY AWARD 2015

GENE HENNIG (CLASS OF '65)

Gene Hennig '65 was the recipient of the Margaret Eddy Award, 2015. This is the annual award given to distinguished Alumni who has made significant contribution to KIS, excellence in their field of profession, contribution to society, India and the world.

The award was presented to him in April, at a private ceremony at the Kodai Club. In his acceptance speech, Gene expressed his gratitude to the Board and Management of KIS for the honor and also thanked them for the opportunity given him to serve in various capacities over the years.

Gene attended Loch End School from 1957 to 1961 and continued at KIS, then Highclerc School from 1961 to 1965. Gene was a Lawyer by profession.

In a letter to the graduating Class of 2015 which was read on his behalf by Bob Granner, he said that, they have every right to take great pride in what they have achieved and whether they came to KIS years ago in primary school or more recently in High School, they have accomplished all the

tests that were laid out before them and are now prepared for the next challenges that life has in store for them. He added that, they should soak in all the congratulations that come their way because they have earned the coveted prize of a KIS diploma and are now to be welcomed into the ranks of KIS Alumni worldwide. He expounded further and quote "Kodai School provided me, as I hope it has now done for you, with an international perspective that remains vitally important in our ever-shrinking world. Now, more than ever before, today's graduates will need to have an appreciation for widely diverse cultures, nationalities and values that make life so rich and complex. Your education here at KIS has already given you a head start."

In his closing remarks, he added that and quote "Today the sun is rising on your generation even as it is setting on my own. As you graduate and go out into the world you will carry the indelible brand of a "Kodai School Kid" – a unique brand that I have been proud to carry my whole life



long. This is now your brand identity, too, which you can proudly share with all those graduates who have gone before and are yet to come. This is a mark that come what may in life can never be taken away from you. So go forward from here with the blessings of almighty God, the pride of your parents and teachers, and the support of all the KIS alumni wherever they might be scattered throughout the world."

Gene passed away on August 25th, 2015 after a prolonged illness. He will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Kristie Hennig and their three children.

ENSURING CULTURAL CONTINUITY AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE IN NEPAL

KAI WEISE (CLASS OF '83)



Kai Weise (Class of 1983) is a Nepali national of Swiss origin. After graduating from KIS, he went on to complete his Masters in Architecture from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich in 1992 and has been working as a planner and architect in the Himalayan Region. As an architect, he has worked on a wide range of projects, showing particular interest in educational institutions, such as school and university designs. Kai Weise has been working in various capacities as a UNESCO consultant and advisor to the UNESCO office

in Kathmandu since 2004. He has facilitated the establishment of management systems for World Heritage properties such as Kathmandu Valley and Lumbini in Nepal, Samarkand in Uzbekistan, Mountain Railways of India and recently for Bagan in Myanmar.

Kai Weise has lectured in various universities in Nepal, Switzerland, Japan, India, China and the Republic of Korea. He is also a Board Member of the KIS Council. Over the past several years, Kai Weise has been writing a weekly column in the Himalayan Times on architecture, planning and heritage. His son Raydn Weise has recently joined KIS (Class of 2019). Kai witnessed the recent earthquake in Nepal, and is responsible for coordinating UNESCO's response in respect to the cultural heritage. He had this to share:

On Saturday 25 April 2015 just before noon the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck. I was at home in Kathmandu working on a management framework document for the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site. Having completed the final draft I sent it off by email to UNESCO and the Department of Archaeology and was leaning back in relief when suddenly the ground started shaking. I had felt lots of smaller tremors over the years but this was different. My son Raydn was in his room and I managed to dash over. As I grabbed him I knew we were not going to make it out of the house since the ground was moving as if we were standing on a surfboard. We stood under the door lintel wondering how this was going to end.



The epicentre was 15 kilometres under the village of Barpark in Gorkha district, some 80 kilometres northwest of Kathmandu. It was an earthquake that seemed to specifically damage vernacular buildings and historical monuments. Villages in 39 districts were affected with about half a million houses collapsing and a further quarter million being severely damaged. The most badly affected were eleven districts within the area spanning

between Gorkha and Dolakha. Listed monuments were affected in 20 districts with 190 being recorded as having collapsed and 663 having been partially damaged.

After such a massive earthquake one is rather disoriented. So it took some time to check out the immediate surroundings and investigate the damages. Our compound walls had collapsed, but otherwise miraculously everything else seemed to have survived. The phone

and internet still worked and on social media there were however frightening messages of collapsed buildings and hundreds of lives lost. The Bhimsen Tower had collapsed and hundreds were crushed to death. There was a blood donation campaign going on in Kastamandap, when the historic monument collapsed. We were not sure what had happened to the infrastructure and whether we were going to be cut off from the outside world. The fear was also that



there could be lack of security leading to looting.

The last big earthquake had struck Nepal in 1934. Since in average such major earthquakes are known to strike ever eighty to a hundred years, we had started the countdown. In the field of cultural heritage, we had organized workshops and carried out training to be better prepared. We were however all rather surprised when the earthquake did strike. It took us two weeks

to set up the Earthquake Response Coordination Office in the Department of Archaeology and I was to coordinate UNESCO's response to the earthquake in respect to cultural heritage.

The media coverage on the destroyed heritage was so effective that a huge number of national and international organizations and agencies showed interest in getting involved in the rehabilitation of cultural heritage. The problem now was to coordinate the

onslaught of requests and offers to assist and fund the reconstruction that came flooding in from all across the globe.

We declared the first two months until the Monsoons arrived, as a "response phase" where we assessed the damage and prepared the sites for the rainy season. The parts of the collapsed monuments needed to be salvaged and safeguarded. The damaged structures needed to be given support and where possible



covered to protect them from the rain.

Once the rains arrived, we continued to monitor the situation. We now had 3 months' time to plan since little work can be done during the Monsoons. So till the end of September we worked on the post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation policy and the respective guidelines. This was of course a rather complicated affair since there were many

different parties with different interests working on the same task.

We also had to ensure that research was prioritized and that reconstruction was not carried out without any clearly defined approach and detailed research on the foundations as well as geological and structural assessments. We are in the process of establishing research projects for material and structural analysis, archaeological research and

material dating, geophysical assessments as well as conservation of artefacts and where necessary the mural paintings.

Priority has been given to World Heritage and the sites on the tentative list which range from urban centres, palace complexes, religious ensembles to entire hillocks and historic settlements. For each we must find a means of reconstruction as well as rehabilitation. Some sites we

are preparing Reconstruction Master Plans that define step by step procedures. The most complex task will however be to determine the right procedures and approach for the restoration of residential buildings within historic contexts. They will need to comply with conservation principles but must ensure an improved standard of living. To get this compromise right will be critical for the historic settlements.

Great expectations are placed on intangible heritage as the vehicle for cultural continuity. This can be the means of unifying communities and creating resilient societies. It is especially evident after a major disaster such as the recent earthquake that communities resort to their cultural roots to provide strength and reassurance for their healing and rehabilitation. The fervour with which the festivals are celebrated with people singing and dancing through the rubble strewn streets shows their will to ensure continuity.

The rehabilitation and reconstruction of the monuments will only be possible if we have knowledgeable and skilled artisans. The master crafts-persons must be identified and acknowledged. They must



be seen as "living national treasures" as the Japanese do for "keepers of important intangible cultural properties." The system of apprenticeship must immediately be expanded to ensure that sufficient artisans are trained to allow for the restoration of the tangible heritage.

The rehabilitation of our cultural sites will depend more on the strength of the intangible than that of the tangible heritage. We talk of strengthening the monuments to withstand the impact of earthquakes. There are misconceived ideas floating around promoting the use of modern technology and

materials to ensure resilient structures. Over time it is not the structures that will persist. Cultural continuity can only be ensured through the knowledge and skills of the community being passed on from generation to generation.

The cycle of destruction and renewal has taken place throughout history and must be accepted as an integral characteristic of the heritage. The value therefore does not lie purely in the material. As long as the community has the capacity and the will, their cultural heritage will be rebuilt. The constant renewal of the heritage ensures continuity.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

PHYLLIS MARTENS HIEBERT (CLASS OF '46)



Phyllis and Loey Hiebert Knapp '67

I was born in Mt. Lake, Minnesota. My parents John and Anna (Jungas) Hiebert left for India when I was a year old, to serve in several mission stations near Hyderabad. I was a student in Kodai from grade 4 to grade 7; we had to leave India in 1942 because of World War II. I went to high school in California, to college in Kansas (see next question for further education). I taught college English and then ESL for many years. I am married to Dr. Elmer Martens, professor Old Testament. We have four children and nine grandchildren. I have written two books: *Stories from an Old Town* (set in my mother's home town in Minnesota), and *The Merry Adventures of Buzzer Bug* (a

read-aloud book for young children). I play the organ at our church and like to sketch scenes from our travels.

I have master's degrees in English from the University of Kansas, and a master's degree in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling from the Mennonite Brethren Seminary in Fresno, California. My parents were missionaries near Hyderabad. At age six I was placed in Brecks School, a British school in Ooticumund. My parents decided that Kodai, American-based, was a better choice. I and my younger siblings all came here, many thanks to our dad!

I was in Kodai grades 4 through 7, so the



Phyllis Martens '46 with Gillian Fielden Senior '48

memories are those of a child. I remember the giant stride on our playground, playing hopscotch and jacks, rooming in Lower Boyer with Clara Cunningham and Joyce DeBruin, reading books from the library, going on hikes e.g. Dolphin's Nose, study hall in an upstairs classroom.

Clarence Manly was my favorite teacher because he set up do-it-yourself projects at 3 levels: X asked basic questions, Y added a research project, and Z asked the student to build something. I always did the Y level because I liked doing research in the library.

I took piano lessons from Miss Page; was in

a play; sang in the choir. There were of course class hikes and other activities. I remember with pleasure the times I spent in the dorm sitting room by myself, making paper dolls and clothes, with water colors. I also remember learning to play Mah Jong—a game we still play at home in the U.S. For a number of years our class had a Round Robin going, with Joyce DeBruin, Keith DeYoung, Robin White, Julian Miller, Stewart DeBoer, and others. It has not come around lately and I think no longer exists.

I taught college freshman English for a number of years; then ESL (English as a Second Language). Thinking the students needed



Picture of Phyllis at Kennedy Dorm... she is the one on the left, the oldest in the family

more interesting ways to learn, I designed and published four ESL games—still available from a games company in Fresno, CA. Rather late in life I studied psychology, earning a master's degree, and worked as a counselor in Fresno elementary schools for a few years.

One of the English-teaching games I designed is very popular with ESL programs in the U.S. The others have sold/are selling reasonably well. I hope the teachers are finding them helpful in teaching English. I like working with words. That includes checking student writing for correct grammar, logic, flow of ideas and

language. I now am doing my own writing of stories for both adults and children.

I have visited KIS several times in the past years but have not worked here or participated in activities, so my impressions are mainly of growth in the campus— new buildings as well as a second campus for lower grades. I inform friends, especially any who choosing schools are for prospective students, about the strengths and advantages of KIS. When my daughter came to India some years ago, I advised her to bring her children here rather than look elsewhere for a school.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SHILPA MUKERJI (CLASS OF '93)



Seasoned Photographer in Mumbai

I feel blessed and enriched beyond measure to have been to KIS. My teachers were amazing, they helped me not only to learn, but to think, to have a mind of my own, to be a leader. Now I am a Professional Photographer, self-taught. At 18 I wrote in my journal, which I found only recently, in my Dreams to be fulfilled section, "I will be a Famous Professional Photographer." I found my Photographic career 7 years ago, after doing several other things. I was an actor, a flight attendant, a counsellor.

Being in this business as a Freelancer isn't the easiest, I've had years of struggling, but it's all worth it. Every time I felt like it was too much, my intense Passion for it wouldn't let go.

I am continuously excited about what I will be shooting next, how I will get it all together, who I will gather for the shoot, what creative vision I have for it, on and on. I find inspiration everywhere, if your eyes are truly open from your heart, you see things you



wouldn't usually, all around us there are those magical moments.

My favourite thing to shoot is Fashion and People. I also love shooting the abstract, reflections within reflections and patterns that form in the shadows and light. My Greatest Accomplishment is not giving up! Just keep on the path, it's worth it. Even when nothing seems to be happening, every single drop of effort you put in is building something great. Focus and

keep moving forward.

The one thing I would advise Photographers to do, is experiment, let their voice come through. Yes do all the things that are required to fit into what people want commercially, but don't stop expressing what comes naturally to you. Also, watch how light moves, how it works, see where the sunlight is coming from and how it effects the scene.

I always look at a Photograph

as a moment in time, rather than just an image, and even though it's a still photo, it's alive with that special capture, which will last way beyond its subject, in most cases. And to end i'll say, you can get the girl out of Kodai, but you can never get Kodai out of the girl! Haha :)

Enjoy! There are no limits, just go for it!

My website: [Http://www.shilpamukerjiphotography.com](http://www.shilpamukerjiphotography.com)



Kodaikanal International School 2015 - 2016 Annual Fund





Sandra Schoeninger Fitness Center

The proposed Fitness Center will provide our female students with state-of-the-art treadmills, isolation, cardio (like cross trainers) and rowing machines, free weights and floor exercise space in a safe and secure location inside the Highclerc campus. We estimate a cost of \$35,000- 40,000 USD to fully complete this project.



KIS Service and Environmental Learning Projects

More than ever before, our students and staff are deeply involved in creating and implementing hands-on service learning projects and endeavors that truly improve the lives of others. Our students are currently involved in activities ranging from food distribution to orphanages and homes for the elderly to empowering local women entrepreneurs; from smokeless stove installation in village houses to an impressive house-building project for a local family.



YES!

2015-2016 Annual Fund

I would like to donate to my school towards:

☐ Sandra Schoeninger Fitness Center

☐ KIS Service and Environmental Learning Projects

.....

☐ I would like to donate In Memory / In Honour of:

Name: _____

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.....

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Go to: www.kfi-us.org/partner.html

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Please make cheques payable to **Kodai Friends International**

Send to:

Executive Director

Kodai Friends International, Inc

353 Kings Highway

New Durham, NH 03855-6112

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Tel: (1) 603-998-7471

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- 1. Visit KFI website: www.kfi-us.org
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USA
Tel: (1) 603-998-7471
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Please make cheques payable to **Kodaikanal International School** and send to:
The Principal
Kodaikanal International School
Seven Roads Junction, PO Box 25
Kodaikanal 624 101, Tamil Nadu
INDIA
Tel: (91) 4542 247201
Email: Principal@kis.in

Bank Transfer:

Contribution from India (ONLY in INR) can be made directly to:
HDFC Bank Ltd
No. 50-22/21, Anna Salai, Kodaikanal - 624101, Tamil Nadu, India
RTGS (IFSC) Code: [HDFC0002365](https://www.hdfcbank.com/ifsc/HDFC0002365)
Beneficiary Bank Account No: 12778640000047
Beneficiary Name: Kodaikanal International School

- For other currencies, please contact the finance office.

Thank you!



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www.kis.in

MUKTANGAN – A COMMUNITY BASED EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE

SUNIL AND ELIZABETH MEHTA, FORMER KIS BOARD MEMBERS



In 2003, after a 35-year career in education and learning in India, I realized the need to demonstrate that it is possible to provide **inclusive**, quality “student friendly” education in schools catering to children from economically challenged communities.

Supported by my husband, Sunil Mehta (an ex KIS Board Member), and through a strong partnership with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), I have over the last twelve years developed an integrated model of community-based teacher and school education. We have set up and are now running a network of 7 English-medium, Mumbai Municipal government schools with teacher education (both pre-service and in-service)

taking place **within** them.

Conventional teacher training institutes largely equip future teachers with the skills to deliver a set syllabus to all children irrespective of their differing developmental levels. This leads to boredom for some students, and frustration for others as they are repeatedly labeled as ‘failures’. A different form of teacher development was required that would first prepare teachers as active learners themselves, to observe individual children, each in their own process of learning and then to design appropriate learning experiences based on the needs observed.

Twelve years ago in March 2003, seven women joined our initial three-month



training in a child-initiated, well-researched pre-school pedagogy, along with classes to develop their English proficiency (all had been educated in vernacular-medium schools). Our first kindergarten was set up in six rented disused classrooms with leaking roofs (during monsoon) in a local municipal school. From that time onwards there was no looking back! It was the community, having observed their children's exuberance for learning (compared to that of their older siblings, who were unwillingly attending conventional schools) that persuaded the MCGM to permit us to set up an additional Mukangan Municipal Primary and later, Secondary School. Then, four years later the local government insisted that we launch and run six more schools on their behalf!

It has been a great learning curve for all involved! The leadership team (including around 50 community members who were

originally Mukangan-trained teachers) is involved in both pre-service (one year) and ongoing in-service teacher development programs. We now have an extensive resource of pilot-tested and documented training material available for use also in our numerous outreach programs. It is these programs that are making us more visible, both to the government and the population at large and adding to our credibility as we advocate our learnings to the larger system. Last year, our first Grade 10 students (42, including certified learning disabled students,) from our original school passed their Board Examination, entirely taught by their community members, with flying colors, and are now enrolled in well-respected colleges across Mumbai.

The municipality along with their trust and belief in us provide us only classrooms, power and water. Our entire yearly funding of US\$



2,000,000 is raised from private well-wishers, corporates and foundations, both local and foreign.

From Sunil Mehta: Liz was appointed a **"Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire" (MBE)** in the Queen's Birthday 2015 Honours list (Birthday Honours 2015: The Foreign Secretary's overseas list). The award is for services to education in India as Founder Director, Mukangan Schools Network. The MBE award is given by the Queen to very select individuals, nationally and internationally, each year, all of whom are nominated through an extremely rigorous process conducted by the UK Government.

The MBE award to Liz is humbly accepted by her on behalf of and the credit for Mukangan's success is richly shared with our faculty and teachers who have over the years dedicated

themselves to help realize Liz's dream and vision. We also acknowledge the important roles of the students, parents, the community and the government officials.

The tremendous gratification and sense of fulfillment that Liz and I feel is also because of the support, faith and help in various ways that we have received from you and many others – donors, supporters, collaborators, volunteers, ambassadors and well-wishers.

We seek programmatic collaborations. You may also write to our Managing Trustee, Mr. Sunil Mehta on his email: sunilmehta@muktanganedu.org For more information please see our short Mukangan film at <https://www.youtube.com/user/NGOMuktangan> and visit our website www.muktanganedu.org



Each Mukangan classroom has stackable furniture to make the classroom a dynamic area for different learning experiences.

OUR YEAR OF ADVENTURE: VOLUNTEERING AT KODAI

SUE REIMER (CLASS OF '78)



Bob Granner & Sue Reimer

“Miss, what’s your dream?” asked a grade-five student while paddling a canoe with me at Poondi Camp. I paused as I looked at the beautiful mountains surrounding us, the water buffalo swimming not far away and listened to a backdrop of songbirds and

children’s voices. “I’m living my dream” I replied.

I attended Kodai School during my primary years while my parents, Ed and Marianne Reimer, taught there. It was my hope to return one day with my own family. That dream was realized this last

school year when my husband and I spent our sabbatical volunteering at the school.

It was a homecoming for me. As we drove up the Ghat, the sights, sounds and smells were all so familiar. We stayed at Prospect, a 150-year-old cottage just above Coakers



SOEx Project

Walk. Living there was an adventure: ever-changing views of the plains, plenty of wildlife, leaky roof and cozy fires.

One of my favorite times of day was walking to school. Together we would make our way down, greeting the street

cleaners, listening to the hum of tea stalls, navigating our way around packs of dogs, and the occasional cow.

My husband, John, and I taught while our kids Anna (grade 8) and Paul (grade 5) studied. John filled in various vacancies at the beginning

of the school year as some teachers hadn't arrived yet and then settled into Math for the rest of the year. I taught in the Learning Resources Department at the Ganga campus (the primary school). I also volunteered with Grace Kids' Crèche. One



KIS Staff with other volunteers Anne & Martin Bredeck

of the highlights of my time was coordinating a child-to-child learning experience with the crèche and the grade-six drama/social experience class.

Our kids found the IB style of learning a valuable lens through which they could view their world. Paul worked very hard for the grade-five Exhibition. This opened his eyes to the realities of child labor in India. It was very meaningful for him to participate in a fundraiser to sponsor kids to go to school. Anna joined the student council and participated with enthusiasm.

Our family appreciated the rich community life of the school. Weekends were often spent hiking. We enjoyed exploring the hills with Barbara Block. She taught us so much about the natural history of the region, pointing out butterflies, birds, insects and vegetation. Anna and I both earned a Tahr Pin. (I had always dreamed of getting one when I was a child.) This allowed for the rare opportunity to go on a wilderness camp in the Rat Tail Valley.

Each of us explored different parts of south India during Field Trip week. I helped chaperone the Mad River canoe trip in

Kerala. We spent many days exploring the backwaters and learning of the way of life there. It was especially rewarding for me, as I had spent many years canoeing back home in Canada. (I even taught swimming to a few of the boys.)

Bethania Home for Children in Kannivadi was another special place we visited on several weekends. Our days were filled with making connections with the girls through sharing meals, swimming, crafting, playing, helping with homework, worshipping and even rescuing one little abandoned puppy.



Sue with visiting Family members

We were touched by their warmth, joy and openness to friendship.

Thanks to the extended Christmas vacation, we had time to explore other regions. We went on a sailing safari in the Maldives Islands. We snorkeled in unbelievably beautiful reefs. Our Paul went fishing every day and caught many of our meals. Using a simple line and hook he caught world-class fish. (I never realized barracuda was so delicious.) Upon our return, our understanding and appreciation of the islands was extended through talks

with fellow Kodai volunteer Dr. Maloney, an expert on the islands.

Christmas was spent at Kodai with my siblings and their families, who visited from Canada. It was very meaningful to share this incredible experience with them and then go on a tour of Northern India.

I was surprised at the instant connection I had with alumni who came back to visit while we were there. I discovered a long-lost sister in Anne Bredeck, who also volunteered that year with her family. Through the generous

donations of alumni, the school received a wonderful “new” pipe organ. It was a privilege to have Bob Granner teach me to play this beautiful instrument (He had taught my mom many years ago).

Our family was touched by the warm welcome we experienced by the entire Kodai community. We felt so blessed and will fondly remember our time with deep gratitude. It really was everything we had hoped for and more.

PS now we are dreaming of coming back.

THE ENVIRONMENT, OUR FUTURE – KIS LEADING THE WAY!

CLARENCE MALONEY (CLASS OF '52)



Clarence & Shashi Maloney

I am volunteering for the second year in Kodai School to promote environment interests. My main motive is to encourage this generation of students to be conscious of changes caused by global warming, already started and greatly affecting their future, and to encourage them even now to begin environmental activism in the school and community.

I believe there is no greater issue for education now than the trends not only of warming, but also related effects of ocean acidification, ocean rise, increase of weather extremes, loss of species, and effect on agricultural yields,

besides groundwater over-extraction. Students can understand the simple fact that the main cause of warming is human extraction of carbon from earth and soil, and putting it into the air and oceans—especially coal burning, which the Government of India plans to double! Students can take action even now to **Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle**.

Kodai School last year joined the Green Schools Alliance, of over 7000 schools world-wide, started in USA, and India is second in school membership is India. We are moving ahead on solar energy, water management,



“waste” recycling, and other environment goals. The Social Experience Department has been re-named “Social and Environment Experience Department” (SOEEX), requiring course work in grades 6 through 12; high school students spend at least 10 hours a semester in related school and community activities, and more is required for the International Baccalaureate program, into which this program is merged.

Growing to be an Environmentalist

I came to Kodai School in January 1947 in 7th grade, as my missionary parents returned to India after the War and started mission work around Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu. As with most of my peers, growing up here and largely in

India has been life-formative. So after a PhD in South Asian Regional Studies in Penn, and teaching in colleges, I fell into a USAID project in Bangladesh, and became a “consultant” in various kinds of rural and environmental development.

Many projects I worked in focused on water resources, in India in Kerala, Andhra, and Delhi, in Bangladesh dealing with both extreme cyclones and floods—perhaps intensified by ocean warming in Pakistan, and in recent years eight assignments in Afghanistan — I am not a technical person, but worked for organization of farmers and communities for water/irrigation management, to strengthen government policies, and in team leadership.

This led to increasingly intense personal concern about environment trends, and what our children will face.

For example, one of my books is *People of the Maldives*, from my anthropological research there in the 1970s, but now that will be only of historical interest as in these children’s lifetime the Maldives, built on coral atolls just above sea level, will be drowned and its people will move. Kodai School has students from Bangladesh, but in their lifetime its southern part will be drowned by ocean rise, and 25 million Bangladeshis will move. Where to? And KIS has students from Thailand, but Bangkok is sinking. And students from India will find that with higher temperature, also because of declining groundwater, food productivity will be less, though population is still growing in North India. And world-over, ocean ports will be badly affected as polar ice is melting faster than expected, while both storms and droughts are even now intensifying.

I am passionate that young people should not

only be aware, but take part now in activities to reduce consuming goods, often useless, whose manufacture and transport use oil and cause waste pollution. They can learn here to become activists. So I offered to volunteer for environmental awareness and activities in KIS, and Principal Stixrud and the school Council have been supportive.

What we are doing in the school and in Kodai community

My Personal Mission in KIS is for Students to acquire Information about what will happen in their lifetime, and passion to become activists in Government and for policies, NGOs, Communities, Industries and Homes.

My first concern coming to KIS was to get solar panels installed—I have them on my house in USA, and felt that KIS should be an example about renewable energy— also strongly promoted by Indian and State governments. So we got a 20 kW system set on Alumni Hall (the former “Gym”), without batteries for use in



Solar panels on Alumni Hall

offices and classrooms—visible to all entering the campus-- which also lowers electricity cost Rs.1000 a day. Then we got a 20 kW set with batteries on maintenance row, feeding Kennedy and Boyer dorms in evenings. Soon we will have a 10 kW set on the Ganga compound kitchen, and a 2 kW set on the watchmen's houses in Camp Poondi—thanks to donors of the class of '66 under initiative of Joe Rittman. In science classes, students monitor electricity use, and do practical lab research on a variety of renewable energy ideas, under guidance of Science Department Head David Langenmayr.

KIS has solar water panels on several buildings, and they should be installed on more, as heating with geysers takes a lot of power. Students through SOEEX have been planting shola trees (native species) for some years, and the new Nature Club is planting fruit trees also. In the community, students are helping to install “smokeless stoves” in homes where people suffer from lung injuries by burning wood and dung. Composting of organic waste takes longer here because of temperature, and it can bring thousands of rats, but we are doing some, and food waste now goes to pig farm. The new dorms and residences on Ganga Compound have a big septic tank whose water goes through a large bio-processing system, and is re-used for gardening and toilets-- installed by our engineer Bheeman. KIS people are working with NGOs, as Palani Hills Conservation Council, and with the Municipality as on the town dump whose polluted water goes to villages below for drinking.

This semester we are focusing on “waste” recycling. We had a school Waste Audit. We have bins for recyclables around the campuses, with a recycling centre in Lower Sherwood in which iron, tin, aluminium, plastic, cardboard, paper, and glass are sorted and sold to local

scrap dealers. Medical waste from the “Dish” is incinerated. The hard problem is to get students, staff, workers, Ayahs-- and tourists-- to observe recycling! Now we will aim for more goals outlined by the Green Schools Alliance.

KIS has been rated as the No 1 international residential school in India by Education World magazine twice in a row, and next we want to be rated as the No. 1 environment-friendly school in India!

Fact File:

- KIS joined Green Schools Alliance
- School “Waste Audit” was conducted by 2 KIS grads from “Wasteless” in Auroville; Ribhu Vohra ('00), and Chandrah Musselein ('95) with 45 page Report.
- KIS goal is 75% of “waste” to be recycled (some cities achieve much more!)
- Difficulty is wet food/organics; kitchen waste now goes to pig farm
- Fruit trees planted around some dorms, with composting in Ganga planned
- Solar Panels- 20 kW set, with batteries, on Maintenance Row, for Boyer & Kennedy dorms; also on Alumni Hall; Planned for Ganga also, and Poondi Watchmen's houses (project of Class' 66 under Joe Rittmann)
- All dorms and public places have bins for Recyclables, and for trash, and box for flat paper for SoEEEx; Later, wheeled bins food/comp post
- Solar water heating panels; 1 m tank on 3 new dorms in Ganga campus; more planned

To volunteer at KIS, please write to HR@kis.in

OCTOGENARIAN BIKES TO TORONTO FROM LAKE DORE

PAUL SMITH (CLASS OF '54)



Several reasons motivated this trip for some time on the internet I was hearing about a protest march in Toronto on the 5th of July on global warming. Justice, and Jobs. This subject has been one of my big concerns of late, and I am looking for every opportunity to support this cause. Living off the grid with solar panels at Lake Dore, and Costa Rica, my winter home solar panels with net metering, electronic

bike, recycling, and all the other things I can personally do.

This would be my first opportunity to join with many others to demonstrate the urgency of getting off fossil fuels. At the same time I needed to visit my 93-year-old aunt and buy some new music. The easy way would be to take the bus. However, by connecting by not an



easy bike trip to the cause I thought would give more attention to the cause.

As a long distance biker I cannot remember the trip difficult at the age of 19, and no pushing up hills, only the night spent under a tree in Algonquin Park with mosquitoes shall never be forgotten. 60 years later my body has changed, old age settling in, a stent, knee surgery, bad neck, poor hearing, but fair vision. Am I too naive to think I can still make it on my own steam in three days instead of two?

My neighbor, Jim Anderson, did not discourage me the night before departure but warned me about hills, and he lined me up for an interview with Gerald Tracy of the local paper. The Leader, the next morning with my old racing bike, a pup tent, a blanket, I set off around ten o'clock on a warm sunny day. The first rest stop was Cormac, in front of a Catholic church, contemplated Jesus on the cross and the 8 stations, and watched two cyclist whiz by climbing the steep hill I saw before me. I secured my load, got water and soon discovered the only way to ascend these hills was pushing and I was really crossing mountains. Occasionally

there was a downgrade for coasting, but then another hill and then another.

Pushing takes less energy than pedaling, but I was starting to feel the load and tire with the hot sun. Trees, and trees and trees to the edge of the road was the main landscape. At Quadeville, in a country store I stopped for an ice cream cone and some chocolate bars, but was warned by an old man about bears if I were thinking of sleeping outside, something I had never considered. Just before another big hill at 4:00 pm while getting off the bike for a rest, I fail to get my foot over my backpack and went crashing to the ground. I picked myself up but realized I need to find another way to get off and on the bike. This is when I learned to pull my leg over the high cross bar with my left hand, and shove off. As I was contemplating a big hill before me a pickup truck stopped and I asked him if he could get me by some of these hills. His answer was no and drove off. On that note I carried on hoping to make it to Bancroft by night. I was descending a hill at great speed and was jolted by a wide cut in the pavement, and soon my pedaling was labored. My bike

tire could not take it, went flat, so there I was. No options than push. I carried patches, but no pump.

At the top of the next hill around a bend, a log house among the trees, came in view. As I entered the driveway I spotted and hailed an old man entering a back door. He came and quickly and saw my dilemma. "I think I can help you", he said and together with his pump and tools the tire was soon fixed and I was off. But not before an extended conversation about how he came to live in a log house in the woods and I was biking to Toronto, solar panels and global warming. He also confessed the old man in the pick-up truck who refused me a ride suffered from Alzheimers. I told him what luck I had in meeting him, and if I would continue to meet such helpful people? "There are an awful lot of kind people out there," was his response. I started losing daylight as I pulled into the village of Macarther Mills, 22 km short of Bancroft; late to find a place to stay. I entered a small cluster of houses, knocked at a door, and a man stepped out. I was looking for a safe place to pitch my pump tent. In an unfriendly way he said I should go to the bed and breakfast down the road. Repeating this several times, he declared he was cold and must go in. With this option in mind I continued down the road, but could see no place indicating bed and breakfast.

Then I saw an empty field with house nearby, keeping in mind the danger of bears, I found a good spot behind some bushes. As I tried to put my tent up, the mosquitoes had started to attack. Then to my great frustration, I found there was no way I could get my tent to stand up.

Too many of the poles were broken. There was no other choice than to crawl in my collapsed

tent, using the mosquito netting around my face to fight the mosquitoes, wrapping my blanket around me, my knapsack as a pillow, I aimed to have a night's sleep. I took care to put my hearing aids in a side pocket of my back pack. I tried to relax, but all I could do is shiver and tremble from the cold. I could anticipate my next problem when I needed to pee. This was solved when I found a cup in my backpack. The moon was so bright I could tell time on my watch, one hour after another.

The time went so slowly, but finally I was relieved when it started to get light. I crawled out of the tangled tent, packed things up, then discovered the back tire flat again. Did I not do a good job in fixing the tire the day before, I thought? It is 5 am, but I know there is a gas station down the road. Gradually I stopped shivering and discover to my joy the gas station will open at 6:00. Soon a big bread truck pulls in and we both wait together for the door to open. He assures me the lady will help me. As he said the young lady wants to help me, and supplies me with tools and air, and a pan of water. With a cup of coffee to warm me up, I am on my way to Bancroft, 22km down the road, but not before I abandon my blanket and useless pup tent behind the garage. This would be my last night under the stars.

I am familiar with Bancroft. A fair sized town with a McDonalds, Tim Hortons, bike shop, all the big box stores, and the center of Ontario's cottage country. When I pull into McDonalds at 8:30, I meet a family on the deck having a big breakfast. This is what I want with all the frills.

But I am told I do not get a second cup of coffee without paying. My body well-nourished, I proceeded down the road, but stopped a woman in the parking lot picking up paper with a sharp stick for directions to

the cycle shop. She did not think there was a cycle shop, but there was Canadian Tire. I told her I would let her know about the shop when I found it. However this turned into a lengthy conversation about my trip, global warming, solar panels, recycling in McDonalds, and her job as manager, part of which was to be friendly to visitors. I told her I would get back to her when I found the cycle shop and passed her my card. She would look into solar panels and net metering she promised.

Just down the road I found the bike shop, back of the road in some trees, red plastic canoes in front. Clive Emery, the owner, and a veteran long distance rider, got me a pump, tools, more patches and helpful in suggesting what to do about my flagging energy. I knew his advice was wise, take a day off, but I needed to be in Toronto the next night. Suddenly I thought of checking for my hearing aid. Where are they? Then I knew, back in that field or in the bottom of the tent, which means in the night they had wiggled of that side pocket of my backpack, used as a pillow. What should I do? Then I knew they were more important than getting to Toronto by Saturday night. In order to stay off my bike I could hitch hike back to MacCarthy Mills as a kind of rest and get those buggers. Clive offered to take me back, but he could not leave his store. Then a customer offered, but they were working. So, in my bright orange shirt and red riding helmet, I got out on the road again with my thumb to retrace my trip. Hundreds of cars passed me, but finally after I was getting discouraged, an old couple pulled over. Yes, they were going to MacCarthy Mills. Soon I was out in the field scratching in the dirt and weeds for those little brown hearing aids. Nothing!

Next I rushed across the road to retrieve the tent. Ripped it open, and there they

were, a fortune in the latest Danish digital technology. With jubilation and relief I packed the useless tent up, gave it to the store owner, and celebrated with another cup of coffee. Just as I left the store I spotted a man climbing in a big truck in the direction of Bancroft. I hailed him down, and yes he could take me. As soon as he spoke I knew he was from San Salvador. I broke into Spanish and the ice was broken. The rest of the short trip became very animated, exchanging stories and common ground. He blessed me, as I descended from his truck to start my trip again.

My aunt Jessie would be waiting for me the next night, though not to worry her I had not told her how I was coming. I had told my two sisters, and they had pleaded with me not to be so foolish. I had to tell them I appreciated their concern, but in the end I would follow my own muse. The two voices in me concerning my diminishing energy and the need to get to Toronto the next night was my dilemma. I checked a few bed and breakfast, but they claimed to be full. So around four pm, I thought I would just start down the road, and perhaps I would find something, but I was going to sleep in a bed! A naive optimistic traveler thinking that the universe would take care of me. It was still timber country, route 28 and then 121 and no more pushing, my energies were coming back. The challenge was to maintain a steady rhythm in pedaling, being aware of anticipating quick gear changes in time, steady deep breathing, shifting around on the saddle to relieve soreness, wind, traffic and the changes in the landscape. When traffic is light passing cars give cyclist a wide birth.... But when it is heavy from both directions, we have only about two feet from the white line, which means keeping focused to stay on the white line or on the shoulder when possible, resisting the pull of the air vacuum created by the big



trucks as they roar past.

By six o'clock I am ready for another break, water, and snack, and pull onto a well mowed lawn with a fancy house in the distance. Then I sprawl out to relax. The sun is still high in the sky, all is going well, but I see no lodging. A honk of a car stopped on the road facing toward Bancroft draws my attention. I thought this is a chance to get some information, a place to stay. The driver with a little girl in the back ask me to get in the car, He wants to ask some questions. From the way I was lying, he thought I could be in some trouble. No, I am just fine, I told him but does he know a place down the road to stay? Then he listened to my story. Finally he told me he was going back to Bancroft to get his bike rack and would take me down the road to find a place to stay. He would be back shortly, while I continued my rest on the lawn. Soon he was back, still with the little girl. Loaded the bike, and on our way again.

His name was Gavin Butler, a denturist with a clinic in Bancroft, originally from Wales, but had lived all over Canada.

As you can imagine, with his interest in cycling and green energy, the conversation became very animated, as we explored each other's stories and concerns. Hope, his little girl was playing the ukulele and not thought of trying out her grandfather's violin. I was disappointed to hear this. I was able to buy her some candy in a variety store in Finlen Falls, where we asked directions to lodging. It was just getting dark. We exchanged addresses and I bid goodbye to my Good Samaritan, remembering the comment of the old man who told me. "There are a lot of good folk out there". I could not believe my luck. Because of this ride I was within one days cycling to Toronto. In spite of the cheating I now was going to make it, hearing aid and all.

Familiar Beautiful Bollywood ladies decorated the lobby of the hotel and I knew I was back in little India. The owner wanted to convince me that one of these ladies was his wife, but she had died. Later he told me it was a lie. I was escorted to my deluxe room and eagerly crawled into bed, after having a long tub bath. All was perfect except the price, double from my expectation. But the owner would take ten dollars off. I accepted the fact I was not in control of all my circumstances, but I had a bed and would enjoy it. Before leaving in the morning the owner blessed me, and assured me the importance of my cause.

Soon, I found a restaurant on the way out of town to serve me a full course Canadian \$8 buck breakfast, bacon, eggs, hash, toast and two cups of coffee. Enough energy to get me well down the road. The landscape was changing from trees to open fields, typical southern Ontario. Corn, soybeans, hay, pastures, a few cows, barns, and houses. Now and then someone mowing a lawn and no more big hills. I met highway 7 west of Lindsay,

using back roads. Stopped for a break at an ice store around 11, but only wanting water. Chatting with the owner, I discovered she had been to Costa Rica, but only knew a dozen words of Spanish. I had to decline her offer of giving me a hamburger. I gave her my card and told her the aim of my trip and proceeded down the busy highway. I soon come to a stopped car and a police women with her hand up. She politely looked through all my papers and heard my story, but I could not understand how she knew things about me. When I asked her, she said the women in the ice cream store was worried about me. The officer accepted that I was odd but had no reason to detain me. We shook hands and I took off. My plan was to bike over to highway 47 through Uxbridge, hit rt. 48 to Markham and then into Scarborough, eastern Toronto. The map was very clear.

Uxbridge signs started to appear on the road about 4 o'clock. As I came into a little town, wide mains street, banks on the corners, neat shops, and my thought was this is UXbridge. A little boy eating an ice cream told me where I could buy a cone. I gave up looking for the shop and proceeded out of town after a short break at an abandoned railway station. Goodwood was on the map, but it took me forever before I arrived and this is where without knowing I had made some mistake. I relished a great subway sandwich at the gas station, took a rest and proceeded to make my last push in what I thought was the direction to Toronto. However, after cycling again for half an hour in the direction of Markham I come into big town called Uxbridge.

“But I have already passed through Uxbridge several hours back,” I declared to a friendly gentleman. “No, sir, you are going the wrong way if you want to go to Toronto.” I was confounded, with no explanation of what

had happened and with a heavy heart and weakened legs I turned my bike around headed back to Goodwood. This explained why the shadow on the pavement seemed in the wrong direction, I thought... The Shell attendant commiserated with my folly. It would soon be dark, and the idea of making it on my own steam was impossible. The only idea he could come up with was to call the police.

“OK, can you do it” I said. “I am too embarrassed.” He talked for a long time and then I had to talk, and soon a soft spoken officer arrived in his cruiser. After going through all my papers and talking to my Aunt on the phone his conclusion was he would call a taxi for me. My aunt could pay. This did not look good, but I had no choice. I caved into my reality and said Ok.

While waiting for the Taxi he wanted to know all about Costa Rica. He was looking forward to helping in the Pan Am game the next week, coming to Toronto, What a great thing for Toronto, he explained... I gave him my card and invited him to Costa Rica. Just as I expected my Aunt gave me hell, called me crazy. This would be her last chance to correct her erring nephew, who she loves so dearly. The next day I joined 10,000 other of likeminded marchers parading down the streets of Toronto with the hope the sleeping world would wake up and see we must live in harmony with nature or be an extinct species. I was not alone.

In the multitude of people Kate Anderson, my neighbor’s daughter touched me on the shoulder, another marcher, and agreed to get my bike back to Lake Dore. I was able to reconcile with my aunt, get my new music, and with the help of Dave, my cousin, get a bus back to Eganville.

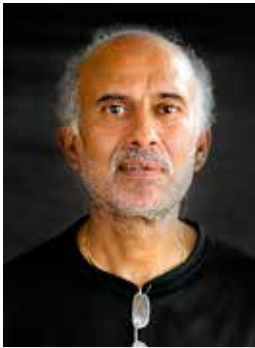
Mission completed.

KODAI ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

KHESHALA PROJECT



Bharat Sidhu '93



Coach Bajwa



Gaggan Sidhu '90



Tariq Mohammed '94

For more than a hundred years, Kodaikanal International School has nurtured a tradition towards contributing to the community and natural environment. This legacy has been driven by a strong value system that truly connects individuals with a purpose for the betterment of human life and sustainable living in balance with nature.

The school’s alumni across the globe work with individuals and institutions to establish, support, and manage programs, charities and trusts that benefit the wider community. One such institution is Khelshala (www.khelshala.in) that believes that “giving one’s true worth is the greatest gift that one human being can impart to another,” as its motto suggests.

Founded by Coach Satinder Bajwa in 2009, Khelshala aims to prepare underprivileged children for a brighter tomorrow through sport, education and yoga. An aeronautical engineer, turned squash coach for Harvard University, the US Military Academy, Stripes Squash League Team, and mentor to World Champion Jansher Khan, Coach Bajwa, decided to work towards the empowerment of children through a sport he has dedicated his life to.

Tariq Mohammed (Class of 1994), a certified squash coach himself, who has worked for more than a decade in secondary schools across Massachusetts as well as Harvard University and Tufts University, has been the Secretary of Khelshala since

its inception. He has worked effortlessly with the Founder, management and advisory board, and several members and volunteers to harness the true essence of community service. Amongst others, they have encouraged are Milagro Interactive (www.milagro.in) a digital firm, managed by Gaggan Sidhu (Class of 1990) and Bharat Sidhu (Class of 1993), to support the cause by aligning with the firm’s values, which includes a “focus on human capital, human aspirations and human relationships.”

Over the last six years, Khelshala has empowered several underprivileged children, giving them shelter, education, training, and purpose to live their lives with dignity as aspiring citizens of

the world. In the United States, Khelshala Inc. is affiliated with the National Urban Squash Education Association (NUSEA – www.nationalurbansquash.org) and supported by alumni from Harvard University, Stanford University, Cambridge University, amongst several other institutions and organizations. Khelshala creates and manages facilities, programs and regular camps, with the support from teachers, athletes, celebrities, educational institutions, and corporates across the world.

With a focus on Sports, Academics, and Yoga (S.A.Y.) children from Khelshala have achieved their highest aspirations. The program involves more than a 100 children, for 5 days a week, in two locations, in pursuit of physical, intellectual and emotional growth for the underprivileged. The Khelshala Young Achievers Club (KAC), develops its students to prepare them to experience a better life. In 2014, several children participated at national and state level championship tournaments. It has achieved a 100% academic pass rate for its schools. Its first child, obtained admission to a university to study computer science, and others have received scholarships on merit from private schools.

Should you believe in the same purpose, and would like to help make a difference, please learn more at ww.khelshala.in



PIPPA CHRONICLES

- TREK TO CAMBODIA - ANGKOR WAT

PIPPA MUKHERJEE (FORMER STAFF)



next flight. We reached Siam Reap at about 2.0 pm and after showing my e-visa and passport came straight out of the airport to be met by a Tuk tuk and driver who had been sent to meet me. Our hotel was about 20 minutes from the airport and I was given a lovely room overlooking the pool and gardens.

Anu arrived late in the evening from London and was pretty tired so we went to sleep quite early after food in the restaurant.

I needed a holiday after working on garbage collection for months and supervising three St Olaf Biology students and had arranged for Anu, my daughter to meet me in Siem Reap the nearest town to Angkor Wat which we had planned together. She was flying from London and I was to fly by Air Asia to Kuala Lumpur and then Siam Reap from Trichi.

so huge that one needs days to see all around it, and could well get lost in the process; but full of wonderful trees such as Millingtonia the Indian cork tree showering the ground with its beautiful scented white blossoms plus so many other interesting artefacts. It was dark when we got to the airport and I had to wait several hours before my late night flight.

We drove down to Trichi in the afternoon as I wanted to visit the spectacular Sri Rangan temple which is outside the city but well worth a visit. It is

At KL I was lucky to be able to get a transit visa as one is not booked through to the final destination and had breakfast in the airport waiting for my

The next morning early we planned our four days in Siam Reap and got Chang Thorn the Tuk tuk driver to take us to Angkor Wat and Bayon where we spent the whole morning. One has to buy an entrance ticket to Angkor at a very well organised booth, \$40 for five days a ticket which is checked carefully as one enters each temple. Angkor Wat is spectacular and the grounds huge and beautifully laid out and we walked and climbed a lot as all the temples are high and need to be climbed up very narrow, and in some



case, very slippery steps. Bayon is even more stunning as each tower of the temple has magnificent carved stone faces which leave one just standing and staring. We were quite tired by early afternoon and decided to return to the hotel where we had a swim and relaxed for a while and then dinner and bed.

Up at 4.0 am ready to drive to Angkor Wat to watch the sunrise over the temple and we were lucky enough to get there early and find a place in front of a small lake so that we could see everything clearly. The crowd that built up behind us was immense but we could really appreciate unrestricted views of the colours changing in the sky to red, blues and greens reflected in the lake before us. Once it was light we walked all around the gardens watching the sun rise higher and higher and then went to have some breakfast and

collect our Tuk tuk.

Angkor Thom was our next port of call and there we spent hours at Ta Prohm which is perhaps the most magnificent of all the places we saw with the huge Fig and Silk Cotton trees with their roots protruding in massive waves over the sandstone and granite temple complex. (The place where Tomb Raider was filmed). It was still early morning so quiet and we had the temples that we saw that day almost to ourselves and it seems that most of the large crowds are on short package deals which means perhaps a day or so only at Angkor so no time for the more interesting areas. The entire area of Angkor is surrounded by jungle which makes everything much more impressive but one would need weeks to see everything which we, sadly, did not have. However one can get "templed-out" and we

saw a great deal that day and walked for miles.

We got back in the afternoon and then spent the evening in Siam Reap at the night market and having dinner before returning to the hotel in a Batmobile Tuk tuk at 11 pm.

The next day we were determined to see as much as possible around Angkor and Chang Thorn was keen to show us the best and virtually drove all day. Bauphon was my favourite that day with a huge carved Buddha at least 100 metres long carved on the back of the temple. The steps however were not for the faint hearted as they were even more narrow high and often sloping. All the time we were there we could hear cicadas constantly calling but their calls are higher pitched and musical than the Kodai ones.

Back in the town, we spent another evening at the night market and ate Vietnamese pancakes which were delicious (we did not try the friend scorpions, cockroaches and tarantulas which are served in some places, I just feel sorry for the poor things).

The next morning our last in Siam Reap we visited the main temples of the town and then booked tea at Raffles hotel which is renowned for

its amazing food and is the height of luxury. We ate until we could eat no more and then walked for miles around the town for the last time.

We caught the night sleeper bus to Sihanoukville at 10.30 pm and compared to Kodai sleeper buses this bus should be rated on a 1- 10 rating with 1 or the very worst. We were exhausted when we got off the bus finally and were taken to our hotel which was very comfortable luckily. We walked about 8 kms along the beach in the evening, but a rather disappointing sunset and a messy garbage strewn beach for most of the way to Otris, the nicest of the little areas. Sihanoukville is a tourist town and not beautiful but luckily we missed the Christmas rush time, so it was reasonably quiet. The next day we planned to go into Ream National Park and spent the day there walking and climbing through thick tropical forest seeing giant pied hornbills, squirrels, and enticing tarantulas out of their burrows with the help of the forest ranger who accompanied us. Very sweaty and humid as was most of Cambodia but interesting and I spent hours looking at plants to possibly bring back much to Anu's dismay. We also saw

many wonderful butterflies, small flying lizards and stick insects.

The next day after breakfast at the beach we packed and were on our way to Kep by van along flat but interesting landscape although there are no birds visible anywhere as they are shot for food and end up in a pot with the insects, which is very sad.

We arrived in Kampot, a so called old French town and as the van had broken down, we had to take a Tuk tuk to our hotel in Kep which turned out to be the most amazing and best place we stayed with the forested Kep National Park on the hillside behind. Lovely gardens and a small rondavel stone cottage to sleep in and excellent food.

The next morning, we took a van to Kamot as we had

been told, it was interesting but was not and even the so called French buildings were dull and unimpressive. We did go to the day market there for a while but were happy to get back to Kep and visit the beach accompanied by the two hotel dogs who kept us company. We spent the early evening on this lovely beach watching the sun go down behind the sea a myriad of slowly changing colours, and then walked along the coast for an hour to the crab market where we had the most amazing sea food dinner and of course fresh crab.

The next day we wanted to explore the Kep National Park and again were accompanied by one of the dogs as we walked. Interesting plants especially ferns and orchids but not much in the way of wild life and very few birds but it was a good experience



and we had some lovely views of old temples on the hillsides beyond the park. We walked for about 12 kms along the coast to the artificial beach that is Kep, made of fine white sand brought to the beach unlike the dark brown natural sand.

Then we were on our way again to Phnom Penh on a bus that stopped every few miles but it was an interesting journey watching people. It was rush hour in the capital when we arrived and difficult to get a Tuk tuk, but we finally managed to get one and were taken to our hotel, a really very ugly building but comfortable inside. We were near the Mekong River, so walked down to the river front and found a restaurant for dinner before returning to sleep. I must say that the side roads in the capital are full of mounds of garbage which I am sure is never collected.

Next morning, we had decided to be brave and go to the internment prison camp S21 housed in an old school and then onto the Killing fields as we felt it was so much a part of Cambodian history. S21 was a holding centre for prisoners from 1975-1979 most of whom were ordinary citizens detained by Pol Pot in his crazy vision of a new

communist state and most, at least 20,000 were killed at the Killing fields. The Vietnamese entered the capital city in 1979 but S21 was by then virtually empty. Pot Pot was never indicted and lived to a ripe old age with the world watching his atrocities and doing nothing. S21 was the most humbling place to visit but I am glad I went. The Killing fields were horrific but in a different way as the gardens were beautifully manicured and one did not feel the horror of it as much as in S21. But the stupa full of skulls made one realise what had happened as did the museum. But it was appropriate and thought provoking to see both S21 and the Killing fields as a chilling reminder of human evil.

In thoughtful mode we returned to the capital and spent several hours wandering around the central market before returning to the hotel.

The next day was exploratory and we saw something of the centre of Phnom Penh which is well designed and attractive we also drove along the Mekong River for a fair way and then walked back to visit the Palace and National Museum which was fascinating and full of material from Angkor Wat and elsewhere.

In the afternoon we had booked to go on a trip up the Mekong River and we found ourselves in a comfortable little boat with four others and spent the next few hours on the river past houseboats, fishing boats and small dwellings on stilts. The river is very wide and at some points it is difficult to see the other side, but I am so glad we had this experience and could watch the sunset over the river and the city while we travelled. We had been recommended a restaurant for dinner and it was so lovely that we had two nights eating there in a garden full of tiny lights and excellent food.

Our last day and we wanted to make the most of it by walking and visiting the Russian market which was so large one could get lost in it and had every imaginable purchase but meant we could finish our present shopping. We also wandered around just watching people and enjoying the friendliness of everyone.

I left very early the next morning for my flight to Kuala Lumpur and lunched with a friend who used to work at Kodai School. From there I took a flight to Chennai and stayed at YWCA for a night. Anu left later in the afternoon for London.

CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF '65 CELEBRATES 50TH ANIVERSARY REUNION



Susanna Morawetz Kolb, Johnny Cihocki, Peggy Heineman Cihocki, Carol & David Eaton

In February, some members of the class of '65 visited KIS to mark their 50th Anniversary reunion. They were joined by a group of other visiting alumni for a Campus tour and had lunch with the K-8 Graders on Ganga Campus. The members of the class of '65 were Peggy Heinemann from USA, with her son Johnny Cihocki, Susanna Morawetz Kolb from Austria and David Easton with spouse Carol from Canada.

CLASS OF '90 CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION



The Class of 1990 visited KIS on July 24 and 25th for their 25th Anniversary Reunion. They were about 25 in number, including their spouses and children. They toured the two campuses and had lunch at the cafeteria. As some of them are planning to send their kids to KIS, we arranged for them to attend a class at Ganga campus. They also met with the graduating Class of 2016 to share their experiences in College and in their careers.

In the evening, Balakrishnan Venkatraman hosted a dinner for the Class at Kodai Club. On Saturday, the group visited Poondi campsite and interacted with students at the camp. Present at the reunion were Mark Tegenfeldt, Shanki and Rekha Mahendra, Chris Sykes, Sahir Patel, Ashley George, Atiya Shah, Vinod Mathews, Gaggan Sidhu, Manu Chopra, Balakrishnan Venkatraman and their Spouses and children.



CLASS OF '67 MARKS THEIR 48TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION IN KODAI



In Picture: Margie Graham, Laura Servid, Phil Turner, Tim Heineman, Ken Pease, David Cox, David Bosch, Sara Simons and Loey Hiebert Knapp

By Phil Turner

I am not sure who had the idea of having the reunion for the Class of 1967 in Kodai. Thank you very much! It was fantastic meeting up with former class members, after a gap of 48 years, back in Kodai where it all began.

Most of us were able to meet at the Gateway Hotel in Madurai where the reunion actually began. Having traveled from all over the world, we arrived at various times over a two day period. At the pool or the outdoor restaurant, with the twinkling lights of Madurai below, the

stories and memories started flowing. It became evident that the time we had spent apart had not erased our memories. We cried with laughter and reveled in the stories that were told.

We bundled together into vans to take the drive up the mountains to Kodai. The trip in a car was much easier and shorter than I remembered when we traveled on Kodaikanal Motor Union (KMU) buses. On the trip passing through the plains and foothills, the scenery looked familiar, rolling hills covered with forests and glimpses of

the higher blue ranges. In the past, I remember looking forward to feeling the cool air of the mountains. I did so again.

Arriving in Kodai, my head was spinning around trying to catch glimpses of things I could recognize. I had heard and read about how things had changed and that it might be disappointing. Sure, there are many more people, stalls, and signs. Houses were crowding the hillside where trees and woodlands used to be. Having recently lived and worked in India that did not come as a surprise. This



is the look of a 'New India,' meeting the demands of the people. Mixed up in all of this came the familiar landmarks, the Bund, the lake, the hills around Kodai town. Most dramatically, the beautiful stands of eucalyptus trees towering over the landscape. The sight and smell of 'Eucy trees' is evocative. I have seen them growing all around the world but they always remind me of Kodai.

Soon we were at 'Seven Roads' and with a short drive towards Coakers Walk we arrived at the hotel where some of us were staying. The

'Villa Retreat' is perched on the hillside overlooking views of Kodai town, the surrounding hills and the plains below. Perumal stands proudly as it always has.

That evening we were welcomed for dinner with George Penner (a former Kodai student) and his wife Vera. That evening established what many of us had already decided, that we would spend the time in the good company of friends and eating fabulous food. Following that was a visit with Bruce Peck (also a former Kodai student) and his wife Ann, who live in a beautiful

home at Coakers Walk, with stunning views of the plains and surrounding mountains. Unfortunately, on that evening, the common Kodai mist obscured our view. On another evening we were also treated to a fabulous meal, by a campfire, at Loey's home.

We lunched at the school's cafeteria. It looks different having been split into two levels, but the food has improved. All our meals revolved around eating curries, dosa's, and every Indian delicacy we could find. There is something very important about Indian cuisine that stays



with you all your life. It is now possible to find shops and restaurants all over the world for Indian food I know that our spice rack hold all the Indian spices. I am never too pushed to stop and make some curry dish. It is comfort food.

With a visit and tour of the campus we got a glimpse of what it was like today. Now the students are from more varied countries then it was in 1967. The curriculum has changed with the introduction of the International Baccalaureate Diploma program The schools administration and faculty made us feel very welcomed. During a quieter moment some of us browsed through

a stack of old 'Eucy's' which made us laugh to see how our life was recorded back then.

We made it out to Berijam for a picnic. Along the way we talked about our hiking and where we were for each Long Weekend. Looking through the bus windows, to the surrounding hills, I was happy to think back to those extraordinary times of hiking but glad that, this time, we were being driven up the mountains.

Meeting in Kodai was energizing and the perfect place to reminisce about what the place was like back then and what it means to us today.

Reflecting on this we were able to relive those days and establish new connections with each other.

As it unfolded I realized that this would have been more difficult if it was not for our classmate Loey who put an amazing amount of time and energy into ensure every event was well planned and implemented. Thank you!

On a personal note I want to add that as I left I was thinking how living in Kodai and India gave me a 'multi-cultural' perspective. Those years in India gave me the deepest sense of living in an international world and being



a part of it. It influenced the friends I made at University who were from many nations but I had a special rapport with Asians. I was drawn to them because I felt more like them than my own nationality. These ideas have influenced every aspect of my life. I obtained a Masters in Anthropology from the School of African and Asian Studies (SOAS) at the University of London. I have just concluded 30 year's of working as a international journalist going to places and observing history in the process. The revolutions in Eastern Europe, the Berlin Wall coming down, to the numerous conflicts in the Middle East including Iran and Iraq. Often frightening events, but I am sure that my early exposure to life in India and to a school, tucked away in the Palani hills of South India, only spurred me on in that direction.



Class of 2005 Celebrate 10th Anniversary Reunion

Some members of the Class of 2005 visited KIS during the Field Day in March to celebrate their 10th Anniversary Reunion. They joined in the Field Day parade and also met with the graduating Class of 2015 at a Dinner hosted by the Principal, and shared their experiences after KIS. Present at the reunion were Devika Bakshi, Pavithra Sagar, Mercy Lamech, Rohan Balakrishnan, Sunayna Mundhra, Aditi Punj, Priya Elias, Song-Soo Kim, Reyna Jagtiani, Peter Paul.



CHAPTER REUNIONS

NEW YORK CHAPTER



Left to Right-
 Front Row- Dhruv, Pallavi Kainady, Shweta Chitalia, Nisha Tandon, So Yeon Lee
 Second Row- Mehboob (Alan) Alam, Gerson Mendonce, Nikhil James, Noor Dhadha, Iti Malonz, Divija Mohan, Corey, Nova-Lina Ropp, Anjali Menon, Sanjay Pingle, Rohit Pothukuchi, Viren Mascarenhas, Raoul-Sam Daruwala, Maura Cody's hand and her baby, and Judy Redder
 Up Top- Barbar Sobhan and Maureen Aung Thwin



Corey, Kim, Arya Diwase and Vedhika Arvind



Alumni & Friends:
 Gaurav's friend, Gaurav Shukla Mani, Viren Mascarenhas, Anjali Menon, Megha Modi, Nikhil James, and Lindsey James

BOSTON CHAPTER



Jean Edward, Frank Manley, Julie Stengele, Jerry Nichol, Vijay Naidu, Sara Ann and Merrick Lockwood, Ahilya Chawla, Vidhi Gondalia, Ruchikta, Sudharshan Komanapalli, Audric and Stephanie Cauvet, Jane Braaten, Corey Stixrud, Laurie and David Otten, Kanishth R., Noreen Das, Rohan V, Rajiv G.

WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER



Carmen Rosa Diez Canseco, Paul Kiumars Kianpour, Kourosh Kianpour, Anne Lomperis, Clarence Maloney, Basil Manns, Ronald Nunn, Andrea Ottesen, Patricia Wood Remias, Shashi Maloney, Elizabeth Hagen Smith, Thomas Staal, Corey Stixrud



WELCOME CLASS OF 2015

Achsa Abraham	Shannon Doctor	Pavana Khan	Anant Murarka	Kartikeya Saigal
Ann Abraham	Tenzin Dolkar	Sung Kyeong Kim	Tara Murphy	Prajan Sanku
Jobin Abraham	Gaurav Rajiv Dora	Tae Hong Kim	Tanya Naikawadi	Abhay Sasidharan
Karina Acharya	Samuel Francis	Anan Kraissakawat	Murtaza Najmi	Tushita Sen
Ishaan Agrawal	Vidyuth Francis	Abhinav Kumar	Jigdrael Namgyel	Emani Shah
Rahel Andrews	Rajiv Gaddam	Jun Seob Lee	Chayin Ninnernon	Ayush Sharma
Anup Anthony Gilson	Harpreet Gaur	Seungmin Lee	Aaina Pahwa	Harmehar Shergill
Ambika Assomull	Angelica Dominique	Tenzin Lhadon	Paranthaga Chozhan	Baijayanti Silwal
Ilisha Bhandari	Genilo	Priya Lingutla	Palanivel	Rashi Singh
Rhea Browne	Aakanksha Ghosh	Chizuknok Longkumer	Shaireen Parmar	Ruchita Thakur
Raunaq Chamdia	Himshikha Golchha	Joseph Luy	Meet Patel	Anthan Tigga
Shagun Chetri	Vidhi Gondalia	Wytze Madhu Ramnath	Reyan Patel	Chayanan Tinnakorn
Shayan Chowdhury	Vallarika Hemanth	Muhtadi Mahmud	Shivani Pillay	Abraham Varghese
Damien Das	Jin Wook Hur	Amrita Marianathan	Jemima Pinefield	Saahil Varsani
Shivani Dedhia	Jewon Jeon	Simran Mehrotra	Samridhi Rajbhandari	Nikhil Verma
Vivek Desai	Ishaan Joshi	Shivali Moda	Sharon Rayan	Wyudruklla Wangdi
Harshwardhan Deshmukh	Isheeta Joshi	Sang Hyuk Moon	Godwin Rayen	
Tanya Dhawan	Eun-taek Jung	Johan Moraes	Chanon Rungarunsirichoke	
Dhawan Dirksen	Siddharth Kapoor	Arthur Morris	Heeral Sahajwalla	
Vishnu Dixit	Seherinder Kaur	Paulomi Mukherjee	Ankita Saigal	

